

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Federal Tax ID: 92-0014224****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Anchorage - Second Electrical Feeder Line Into Girdwood

State Funding Requested: \$1,000,000
One-Time Need**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**Brief Project Description:**

Install a second electrical feeder line into Girdwood to provide reliable electrical power supply Alyeska Resort expansion in 2012 and community power reliability.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	(\$1,000,000)
Project Deficit:	\$1,000,000

Funding Details:

\$1 million in state capital funds would be matched by \$1 million CEA capital program funds.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Reliable electrical power is essential to the continued well being and safety of Girdwood's people, and is key to attracting new commercial and residential development. The electrical load in Girdwood is now fed from the Girdwood Substation with a single 3-phase "feeder" circuit. An outage on this line that trips at the substation currently causes a power loss for all 1627 metered customers in Girdwood. When a second feeder line is provided to the Girdwood community, the loss of one feeder circuit will affect far fewer meter holders. In general, the number of affected users will be reduced, with half of the load being on the second feeder. The second feeder line provides a alternate power source so most meter holders affected by the initial failure can be switched to the alternate before repairs are completed. With an alternate source, the load can be switched to facilitate line undergrounding on the existing feeder, thus improving reliability.

The new second feeder line will be mostly an underground 24.9 kV circuit in conduit and buried at a minimum depth of forty (40) inches. Current plans call for the new circuit to proceed northeast from the existing substation to a point where it will connect with the existing feeder circuit along Alyeska Highway. The length of the new circuit will be about two miles but the exact route will be finalized when right-of-way is secured. The second feeder line can be tied into the existing underground circuit feeding the large commercial load along Arlberg Avenue which includes Alyeska Resort current properties and proposed expansion plans.

Project Timeline:

Installation of the second feeder line with this state capital appropriation is expected in 2012 to be concurrent with the already planned upgrades to the Girdwood Substation at that time.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Chugach Electric Association, Inc.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Ron Thompson
Title:	Public Works Director
Address:	4700 Elmore Road Anchorage, Alaska 99507
Phone Number:	(907)343-8120
Email:	ThompsonRJ@muni.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

May 24, 2011

Governor Sean Parnell
Third Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

I'm writing to request your support of a \$1 million appropriation in the capital budget (page 23, line 3). The appropriation would fund approximately 50 percent of the cost of a second electrical feeder line for Girdwood. Chugach has committed to fund the balance of the project if the appropriation is made. State funding would flow through the Municipality of Anchorage.

Currently the entire community is on a single feeder out of the Girdwood substation. A single significant event can cause the substation breaker to open, cutting power to all 1,627 meters in Girdwood until the problem can be determined and isolated.

Adding a second feeder will improve reliability in two ways. First, with the load spilt between two feeders, the opening of a single breaker will only affect a portion of the community. Second, having a second feeder will provide a greater range of options to crews as they attempt to restore power and isolate the problem.

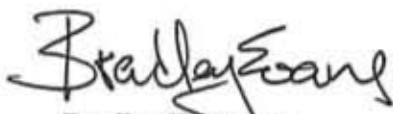
These situations are not theoretical. Our research shows that from 2007 through 2010 the substation breaker locked open 15 times, resulting in 18.7 hours of outage time for all Girdwood customers.

Chugach has been working to improve electric service in Girdwood within the limits of our budget. In 2010 we cleared our distribution line rights of way. We have replaced failed equipment and added new sectionalizing points to allow us to more quickly isolate problems. A primary focus has been on substation improvements, and (after a multi-year effort) we recently were successful in securing a conditional use permit to allow us to move forward on those plans.

Earlier this year I met with representatives of Girdwood 2020 and the Alyeska Resort to discuss a way to accelerate the second feeder project. I committed that if a grant was secured to fund half the project, Chugach would cover the cost of the rest of the project and complete the feeder in 2012 (assuming easements for the line can be secured).

I hope you will join the community, the resort, Chugach and legislators in supporting second feeder for Girdwood.

Sincerely,



Bradley W. Evans
Chief Executive Officer
Chugach Electric Association

Chugach Electric Association, Inc.

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P.O. Box 1102

Girdwood, Alaska 99587

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May 24, 2011

Hon. Sean Parnell
Governor, State of Alaska
550 West Seventh Avenue
Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Capital Budget Legislative Appropriations for Girdwood

Governor Parnell:

We write to ask for your support for two Girdwood and South Central Alaska projects that are listed in the current State Capital Budget.

A \$1.0 million dollar appropriation appears in the legislative capital budget, to match funding from Chugach Electric Association so Girdwood can finally have more reliable power. A second electrical line into Girdwood has long been a stated need of the community; the need is addressed on page 67 of the 2001 "Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation Master Plan" and has been on the community wish list since then.

The public safety shortfalls and economic waste that will be corrected by having reliable power in Girdwood cannot be overstated.

A \$3.5 million dollar appropriation to fund the extension of Arlberg Avenue past the "T" to provide access for the newly created Nordic/Multiuse Trail System, for additional parking and to enable Alyeska Resort to undertake further development of their property is also in the current legislative capital budget. Planning for the extension of Arlberg Avenue was memorialized in the 1995 "Girdwood Area Plan" and further indicated in the "Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation Master Plan" approved in 2001.

Having this small roadway extension up valley in Girdwood will provide recreational and economic benefits not only to the Girdwood community but to the State of Alaska as well. This has been a long time in the making.

Girdwood 2020 was formed in 2000 to implement the Girdwood Area Plan and Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation Master Plan. Our group's activities are directed towards accomplishing this mission. We ask you to continue your support for the two capital requests discussed above.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(s)
Diana Stone Livingston
Chair, Girdwood 2020



Municipality of Anchorage



P.O Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>

GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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May 24, 2011

Hon. Sean Parnell
Governor, State of Alaska
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Capital Budget Legislative Appropriations for Girdwood

Governor Parnell:

On behalf of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors we write to ask for your support for two Girdwood and South Central Alaska projects that are listed in the current State Capital Budget.

A \$1.0 million dollar appropriation appears in the legislative capital budget, to match funding from Chugach Electric Association so Girdwood can finally have more reliable power. A second electrical line into Girdwood has long been a stated need of the community; the need is addressed on page 67 of the 2001 "Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation Master Plan" and has been on the community wish list since then. The public safety shortfalls and economic waste that will be corrected by having reliable power in Girdwood cannot be overstated.

A \$3.5 million dollar appropriation to fund the extension of Arlberg Avenue past the "T" to provide access for the newly created Nordic/Multiuse Trail System. Planning for the extension of Arlberg Avenue was memorialized in the 1995 "Girdwood Area Plan" and further indicated in the "Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation Master Plan" approved in 2001. Having this small roadway extension up valley in Girdwood will provide recreational and economic benefits not only to the Girdwood community but to the State of Alaska as well. This has been a long time in the making. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin Eker,
Co-Chair, Girdwood Board of Supervisors



May 24, 2011

sean.parnell@alaska.gov

Hon. Sean Parnell
Governor, State of Alaska
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: \$1,000,000 Capital Appropriation for Matching Funds for Second Electrical Feeder from Girdwood Substation (FY2012) and \$3,500,000 Capital Appropriation for Extension of Arlberg Avenue.

Dear Governor Parnell:

The Community of Girdwood, Alyeska Ski Resort and Chugach Electric Association ("Chugach") have worked with the Alaska Legislature to procure matching funds of \$1,000,000 to expedite and facilitate Chugach's installation of a second electrical feeder line into Girdwood from the Girdwood substation. Currently, only one feeder line supplies electrical power to the community of Girdwood. Given the fact that this single feed line is on poles in the air, power outages in Girdwood are common. A loss of power anywhere along this single feeder line causes a loss of power to the entire community (approximately 1600 metered customers). In addition to power outages, power surges which occur many times on a snowy day, cause lights to flicker, electronics to be damaged and ski lifts to sustain damage and shut down. Loss of power or power surges also cause a variety of safety issues. When a chair lift or tram stops due to loss of power, skiers are stranded on a chair lift or in the tram. While there are back-up systems in place, the use of back-up systems in and of themselves causes delay and increases the chance of injury.

Reliable electrical power is essential to the continued well being and safety of residents of Girdwood. Reliable power is also absolutely necessary to continued economic growth in Girdwood. New residential subdivisions are being constructed and additional commercial development is being planned. An example of this commercial economic development is a new ski lift being planned at Alyeska Resort. Alyeska Resort intends to install either an angle lift, which will replace Chairs 4 and 6, or a new high speed quad to replace Chair 4. The cost and installation of the angle lift would be approximately \$14,000,000. The cost and



installation of a new high speed quad to replace Chair 4 would be approximately \$5,000,000. Both of these lifts would require more reliable power. Given the electronic complexities of these lifts, the Resort requires consistent, reliable power. Power outages (which can be costly to Resort operations) will be minimized by the addition of a second feeder line.

When a second feeder line is provided to the Girdwood community, the two lines will form a loop; this will allow residents of Girdwood to be provided power from either direction. This means that if a tree falls on the overhead line, power can be provided to many customers with the isolation of the damaged section. The new second feeder line will be mostly an underground 24.9 kV circuit in conduit and buried at a minimum depth of forty (40) inches. Current plans call for the new circuit to proceed northeast from the existing substation to a point where it will connect with the existing feeder circuit along Alyeska Highway. The length of the new circuit will be approximately two miles. The second feeder line can be tied into the existing underground circuit feeding the large commercial load along Arlberg Avenue, which included Alyeska Resort current properties and proposed future development, including ski lifts.

The cost of the second power line will approximate \$2,000,000. Chugach will fund the remaining portion of the cost of this second feeder line. Chugach has committed to proceed with the installation of this second feeder line in the summer of 2012 if the \$1,000,000 appropriation is available. Installation of the second feeder line will compliment Chugach's upgrades to the Girdwood Substation.

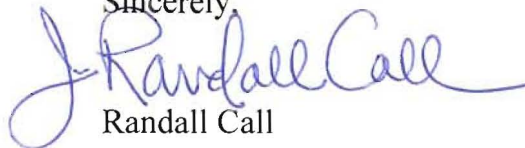
Reliable power and additional parking are the two most pressing issues for continued development at Alyeska Resort. The extension of Arlberg Avenue through a \$3.5 million legislative appropriation will provide access to additional Resort property to allow continued economic growth through additional lodging properties and the construction of additional "close-in" parking for skiers and summer visitors. The cost to the Resort of just the parking and internal road to the parking is estimated to be approximately \$3.5 million. The extension of Arlberg Avenue will also provide access to new Nordic Ski trails and encourage the future development of Glacier / Winner Creek. Installation of the second electric feeder line will help stabilize existing power to the community of Girdwood and will provide reliable power so that Alyeska Resort can continue to plan, install and operate newer and faster ski lifts and more efficient equipment and fixtures.



Alyeska Resort currently has invested approximately \$60,000,000 in Alaska. Alyeska Resort anticipates additional investment both by the Resort's current owners and by other investors currently investigating other lodging properties at Alyeska Resort. For Alyeska Resort and the resort community of Girdwood to be successful and continue to grow, there must exist a private / public partnership. Alyeska Resort is currently the only major four season resort in Alaska. Continued growth of Alaska summer and winter tourism is supported and sustained in part by Alyeska Resort. Additionally, Alyeska Resort employs approximately 700 Alaskans.

I understand that there are many projects across the State of Alaska which deserve funding. How many of those projects will offer a return to the State and the community in property taxes, bed taxes and employment for Alaskans? I hope that you will join with the Legislature in our vision of Alyeska Resort and the community of Girdwood.

Sincerely,



Randall Call

cc: Karen Rehfeld, Director,
Office of Management and Budget
karen.rehfeld@alaska.gov

Susan Bell, Commissioner, Department
of Commerce & Community Development
susan.bell@alaska.gov